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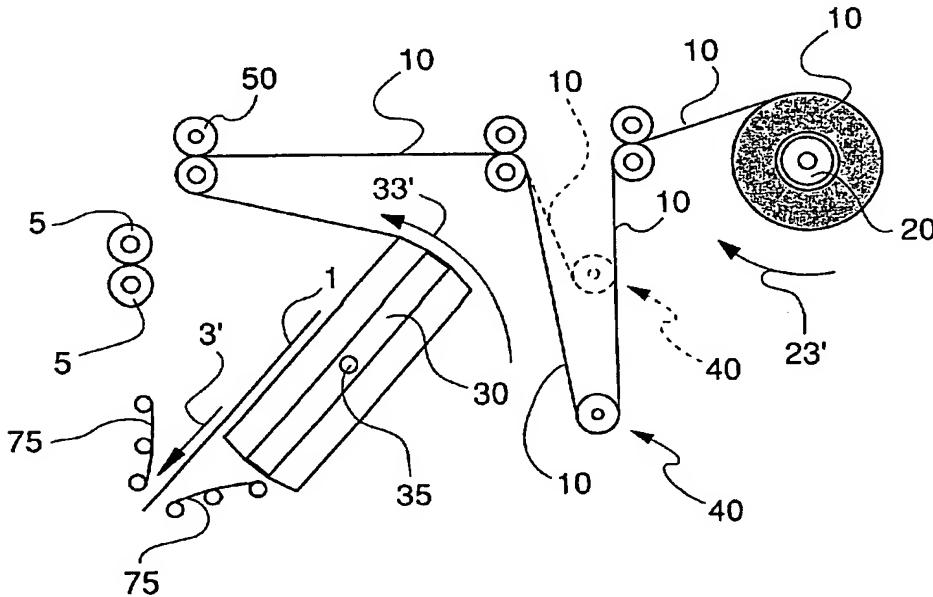
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR STORING AND/OR DISPENSING RIGID OR FLEXIBLE SUBSTANTIALLY PLANAR ITEMS



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(57) Abstract: Described herein are a device and a method for storing and/or dispensing plane, rigid, or flexible items, such as banknotes, cards or the like. The items are stored sequentially between successive windings of ribbon means (10) which are wound and unwound between a supporting element (30), driven in rotation by at least one electric motor, and at least one take-up member (20). The supporting element has a non-circular cross section for obtaining one or more distinct resting surfaces on which the ribbon means are wound.





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*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int'l Application No  
PCT/IB2004/000073

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC 7 B65H5/28

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B65H

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 0081, no. 77 (M-317), 15 August 1984 (1984-08-15) & JP 59 069332 A (FUJI XEROX KK), 19 April 1984 (1984-04-19) abstract; figures	1,2,5, 12,13, 30,31, 34,40, 41,55,57 4,6-11, 33, 35-39,56
Y	----- WO 01/76002 A (EPCOS AG ; ERHARDT WERNER (DE); MICHEL HARTMUT (DE); SCHOCH KLAUS (DE)) 11 October 2001 (2001-10-11) the whole document	4,6-11, 33,35-39
Y	----- US 5 680 935 A (EDIN GOESTA ET AL) 28 October 1997 (1997-10-28) cited in the application the whole document	56
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Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
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- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
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- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

30 June 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int'l Application No  
PCT/IB2004/000073

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 533 627 A (NORDQVIST LEIF) 9 July 1996 (1996-07-09) cited in the application -----	
A	US 4 337 864 A (MCLEAN CHARLES M) 6 July 1982 (1982-07-06) cited in the application -----	
A	US 4 496 142 A (IWASAKI YASUO) 29 January 1985 (1985-01-29) -----	

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

..... national application No.  
PCT/IB2004/000073

### Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1.  Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
  
2.  Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
  
3.  Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

### Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1.  As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
  
2.  As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
  
3.  As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
  
4.  No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-13, 30-41, 55-57

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-13,30-41,55-57

Device for storing and/or dispensing substantially planar items in the form of rigid or flexible sheets, with non-circular supporting element on which ribbon means are wound

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2. claims: 14-16,42-44

Device for storing and/or dispensing substantially planar items in the form of rigid or flexible sheets with ribbon means having special properties of adherence

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3. claims: 17-29,45-54

Device for storing and/or dispensing substantially planar items in the form of rigid or flexible sheets means for driving and tensioning ribbon means

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**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

 International Application No  
**PCT/IB2004/000073**

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